

I CLAIM:

1. A lifting and transport strap assembly for lifting and transporting bulky articles having interconnected top, bottom, back and sidewalls, comprising:
 - (a) a main strap assembly for circumscribing at least a portion of the bulky article, said main strap assembly including a generally semicircular shaped, yieldably deformable main strap having spaced apart extremities;
 - (b) gripping means affixed to said spaced apart extremities of said main strap for gripping said main strap assembly;
 - (c) first and second spaced apart side straps connected to said main strap for engaging the sides of the bulky article, each said first and second side strap having an upper end portion and a lower end portion; and
 - (d) a bottom strap spanning said first and second spaced apart side straps for engaging the bottom of the bulky article, said bottom strap being connected to said side straps proximate said lower end portions thereof.
2. The lifting and transport strap assembly as defined in claim 1 in which said main strap assembly comprises:
 - (a) a generally semicircular shaped, plastic component connected

to said main strap; and

(b) a generally semicircular shaped, yieldably deformable, cushioning inner component connected to said plastic component.

3. The lifting and transport strap assembly as defined in claim 1 further including first adjustment means for adjusting the length of said main strap.

4. The lifting and transport strap assembly as defined in claim 1, further including second adjustment means for adjusting the length of said side straps.

5. The lifting and transport strap assembly as defined in claim 1, further including cushioning means affixed to said bottom strap.

6. The lifting and transport strap assembly as defined in claim 1 in which said gripping means comprises gripping rings interconnected with said main strap and gripping handles interconnected with said gripping rings.

7. A lifting and transport strap assembly for lifting and transporting bulky articles having interconnected top, bottom, back and sidewalls, comprising:

(a) a main strap assembly for circumscribing at least a portion of the bulky article, said main strap assembly comprising:

(i) a generally semicircular shaped, yieldably deformable main strap having spaced apart extremities;

(ii) a generally semicircular shaped, plastic component connected to said main strap;

- (iii) a generally semicircular shaped, yieldably deformable foam rubber inner component connected to said plastic component; and
- (iv) first adjustment means for adjusting the length of said main strap;

(b) gripping means affixed into said spaced apart extremities of said main strap for gripping said main strap assembly;

(c) first and second spaced apart side straps connected to said main strap for engaging the sides of the bulky article, each said first and second side strap having an upper end portion and a lower end portion; and

(d) a bottom strap spanning said first and second spaced apart side straps for engaging the bottom of the bulky article, said bottom strap being connected to said side straps proximate said lower end portions thereof.

8. The lifting and transport strap assembly as defined in claim 7 further including second adjustment means for adjusting the length of said side straps.

9. The lifting and transport strap assembly as defined in claim 7, further including a layer of foam rubber affixed to said bottom strap.

10. The lifting and transport strap assembly as defined in claim 7 in which said gripping means comprises generally "D" shaped gripping rings interconnected with said main strap and gripping handles adjustably interconnected with said gripping rings to enable angular positioning of said gripping rings.

11. A lifting and transport strap assembly for lifting and transporting a hot water heater having interconnected top, bottom, back and sidewalls, comprising:

- (a) a main strap assembly for circumscribing at least a portion of the hot water heater, said main strap assembly comprising:
 - (i) a generally semicircular shaped, yieldably deformable main strap having spaced apart extremities;
 - (ii) a generally semicircular shaped, plastic component connected to said main strap;
 - (iii) a generally semicircular shaped, yieldably deformable foam rubber inner component connected to said plastic component for frictionally gripping the sides of the hot water heater; and
 - (iv) adjustment means for adjusting the length of said main strap;
- (b) gripping means affixed into said spaced apart extremities of said main strap for gripping said main strap assembly;

- (c) first and second spaced apart side straps connected to said main strap for engaging the sides of the hot water heater, each said first and second side strap having an upper end portion and a lower end portion; and
- (d) a bottom strap spanning said first and second spaced apart side straps for engaging the bottom of the hot water heater, said bottom strap being connected to said side straps proximate said lower end portions thereof and having a layer of foam rubber affixed thereto.

12. The lifting and transport strap assembly as defined in claim 11 in which said gripping means comprises generally "D" shaped gripping rings interconnected with said main strap and gripping handles adjustably interconnected with said gripping rings.